The Paper Bridge

Notice how transition words guide a story.

C.3.2.e "Use grade-appropriate transitions to develop text structure in sentences and paragraphs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle words or phrases that show when events happen. Underline words that show a change, a cause, or a result.

A Bridge for a Toy Car

1. On Friday, our class tried to make a paper bridge across two stacks of books. First, we set the stacks a hand's width apart. Then, I laid one flat sheet of paper across the gap. I placed a toy car in the middle, but the paper sagged. Because the bridge dipped, the car slid into the space between the books.

2. Next, my partner folded a new sheet back and forth like a fan. We opened the folds a little and laid the paper across the books. However, the folds tipped over when the car rolled onto them. My partner held the ends down with two small blocks, so the paper stayed in place. We tried the car again, and it rolled across.

3. After that, we wondered if the bridge could hold more weight. We added a second toy car beside the first one. This time, the bridge bent, but it did not fall. Finally, we took the cars away and showed our classmates the folds. Our first flat bridge had failed, yet that test helped us find a stronger shape for the paper.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which transition moves the story from setting the books apart to laying down the flat paper? What steps does it connect?

2. Which word in the first paragraph tells why the toy car slid between the books? What reason does it give?

3. What does However tell you about the folded paper after it was laid across the books?

4. Why does the writer use Finally before the class sees the folds?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences about making something or solving a small problem that is not in the passage. Use First, Next, However, and Finally to show the order and a change in plans.

ANSWER KEY

The Paper Bridge

GRADE 3 · C.3.2.e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle words or phrases that show when events happen. Underline words that show a change, a cause, or a result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which transition moves the story from setting the books apart to laying down the flat paper? What steps does it connect?	**Then connects setting the books apart to laying a flat sheet across them.**
2	Which word in the first paragraph tells why the toy car slid between the books? What reason does it give?	**Because tells the reason: the bridge dipped.**
3	What does However tell you about the folded paper after it was laid across the books?	**However signals a setback: the folds tipped over when the car rolled onto them.**
4	Why does the writer use Finally before the class sees the folds?	**Finally shows that taking away the cars and showing the folds happened at the end.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

First, I planted a seed in a cup of soil. Next, I set the cup by a sunny window. However, the cup tipped over, so I put the soil back. Finally, I watered the seed and set the cup on a wide tray.

For the marking job, accept order phrases such as First, Then, Next, After that, This time, and Finally. Accept but, Because, However, so, and yet as words showing a change, cause, or result.